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## **CANADA'S NEW GOVERNMENT AND WHITEFISH RIVER FIRST NATION PARTNER IN CONSTRUCTION OF NEW SCHOOL**

**2-2868**

**SUDBURY, ONTARIO (April 5, 2007)** — The Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, today announced \$2.3 million for the design and construction of a new school at Whitefish River First Nation. This funding is part of the federal government's national announcement of more than \$50 million for school infrastructure projects across Canada.

"Canada's New Government is committed to ensuring the future success of First Nations children," said Minister Prentice. "In partnership with First Nations, we are working to provide these children with the best possible facilities in which to learn and grow in a safe and healthy environment."

"The community is very excited about our new school," said Whitefish River Chief Franklin Paibomsai. "The school is a tremendous source of community pride. It has been designed and built to meet the needs of our current student population as well as that of future generations."

In addition to Indian and Northern Affairs Canada's investment of \$2.3 million, Whitefish River First Nation obtained approximately \$1.0 million financing for the project. The school, still under construction, is expected to be completed in the spring of 2007.

Whitefish River First Nation, an Ojibway community, is located about 70 kilometres southwest of Sudbury, Ontario, and has a total registered membership of 1,032 people.

Canada's New Government continues to make investments for education facilities across Canada to support projects such as construction, renovation, repair, and design and planning projects, including operation and maintenance, to improve learning environments.

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